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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 158



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AFRICA SEEN LOSING WAR AGAINST MALARIA

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 3 Sep 79 p 4

[Article by Brown Lenga in Dar es Salaam, entitled "Mosquito Gains a New Hold"]

[Text]

AFRICA seems to be losing its century-old war against one of the continent's killer diseases — malaria.

Failure of countries to act together has given the mosquito breathing space.

This is the verdict of medical brains from all over the continent following a conference sponsored by the Commonwealth regional health secretariat, which oversees medical activities and problems in the Commonwealth countries of southern and eastern Africa — Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Seychelles, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mauritius and Botswana.

The experts adopted a resolution calling for renewal of the battle to wipe out malaria.

Their verdict was that lack of co-ordination among individual coun-

tries and research institutions in the region had given the mosquito breathing space.

Tanzanian Health Minister, Dr Leader Stirling, said a million people died every year from malaria, most of them children. And that each year, 100 million cases of malaria were recorded.

In simple arithmetic, therefore, it would seem that of every five people you meet anywhere in Africa one has been a victim of malaria in one way or another in the year.

Africa has a total population of about 500 million people.

Tanzanian physician Dr W. L. Kilama said: "In Africa, we are in bad shape. We are almost in a position of bowing to the mosquito and saying Amen."

The World Health Organisation declared the year 1956 "world-wide malaria eradication year", and reports at the eighth WHO conference that year said that the war against the mosquito was rapidly tilting in favour of man.

Immune

But 23 years later, victory is still not in sight.

Although DDT has proved effective in spraying many human environments, mosquito hide-outs, swamps and other breeding areas, it is now known to be non-effective in 62 of the 107 listed developing countries which have a malaria problem.

The notorious house mosquito, which roams in search of human blood to be fertilised by a male mosquito to continue the species is now proving resistant to both known insecticides and drugs like chloroquine.

Until new discoveries are made and research activities are co-ordinated in Africa, the problem will remain.

Delegates called for a co-ordinated programme because spraying itself cannot eradicate the mosquito. In the years up to 1956, major efforts were made by all governments and the WHO to fight the scourge jointly, relying on DDT.

The most troublesome and drug-resistant mosquito and the commonest disease carrier is the *anopheles foveatus* and *anopheles gambiae*.

The virus is reported to be becoming immune to known drugs. Mosquitoes are now

resistant to most insecticides and pesticides, including DDT, which the WHO had relied on.

After 1956, there was slackness and apathy and the programme slipped.

In East Africa, the Tanganyika-based Institute of Malaria and Vector-borne Diseases was set up to research ways of eradicating malaria.

The WHO provided experts, funds and other technical staff to encourage research and re-inforce local efforts.

But despite these efforts, said Mr Stirling, "the mosquito still mocks us. The parasites are beginning to laugh at us."

In Kenya and Tanzania, the scientifically-identified parasites — *plasmodium falciparum* and *vivax* were said to be extinct by 1956, but now their spread is causing hard thinking.

The Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Project (UNEP) said in a report recently that unless another co-ordinated campaign was launched, the mosquito was about to win the war against man's bid to crush it.

The efforts of individual

countries are no use alone. They may check the spread of malaria but also give a false sense of security to the victims.

As soon as the "indigenous" vectors have been eliminated, billions of more infected carriers will fly in from neighbouring countries.

The delegates at the Dar es Salaam conference left the hall convinced that a new co-ordinated campaign is necessary. Countries in east, central and southern Africa, they said, must now join forces, resources and energy in another war against the parasite.

Total reliance on chemicals was not a solution, though this would continue to play a bigger role.

An "integrated approach policy" which combines old methods and newly devised ways, will be necessary.

One expert said after the meeting: "We may be forced again to approach our rich brothers, this time including the oil-rich states, to come to our help." — GEMINI.

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

RECURRENCE OF PLAGUE--According to WHO, plague continues to afflict the world. In Africa, it is getting worse (195 cases in 1978; 141 in 1977). [Excerpts] [Paris AFRICA in French Aug/Sep 79 p 23]

CSO: 5400

REPORTAGE ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK, CONTROLS

Outbreaks Near Nata, Orapa

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 2 Aug 79 p 1

[Text]

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture Mr Lanyolela Seretse announced in Parliament yesterday that it was confirmed on Tuesday that cases of foot and mouth disease have been found at Mmatshuno and Tjibeejine cattle-posts near Orapa and Marulampeni near Nata.

He said these are areas which have not been vaccinated with our own vaccine and the strain is being timed and the whole area will then be vaccinated as quickly as possible.

Mr Seretse said this outbreak clearly has serious implications.

"Firstly", he said, "it is necessary to cancel the proposed movement of cattle from Ngamiland and Boteti to the Botswana Meat Commission in Botswana".

Secondly, he added, it will again be necessary to close the area of the Central District west of the Railway line and the area north of Palapye/Sherwood fence, which again became buffer zones.

"We intend to inform our

beef markets that we propose to have the BMC open for kill from the rest of the country for non-EEC markets", the Minister said.

Mr Seretse said, clearly this new outbreak is a severe blow, particularly to the northern areas of the country where export of cattle was just about to start after a period of nearly two years.

"I should not underestimate the problems and hardships that will arise. But I should point out that I believe we are in a different situation from 1977", he said.

Firstly, he said, there have been no cattle movements from the infected areas so we know that the disease cannot have spread to the south.

Secondly, he added, we now have an effective vaccine which we can use to deal with the disease.

"I cannot speculate at this early stage on how soon we can revert to a normal situation for exports, but we will do everything we can to control this new outbreak and to prevent any further outbreaks", the Minister said.

Vaccination Teams Sent

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 3 Aug 79 p 1

[Text] Following the confirmation of the Foot and Mouth outbreak in the Central District near Orapa and Nata, the Director of Veterinary Services has made the following announcement.

Firstly, 18 vaccination teams are moving into the area West of the Makoba fence to commence a vaccination campaign on Monday August 6.

All cattle owners and herdsmen are requested to cooperate fully with the teams so that maximum coverage of cattle can be achieved to ensure an early end to the outbreak.

Secondly, cattle will not be permitted to move from the Central District West of the Railway line, from the area East of the Railway line and North of the Palapye/Sherwood cordon fence and from the Ghanzi District with effect from Monday August 6.

The Botswana Meat Commission will cancel all quotas for slaughter stock from the 10 areas from Monday 6th August and until further notice. Botswana Meat Commission will only give quotas for areas South of the Namibia/Lephepe line and South of the Palapye/Sherwood cordon.

Thirdly, it is confirmed that the proposed export of slaughter stock from Ngamiland and the North West Central District is cancelled.

Government Measures

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 16 Aug 79 pp 1,3

[Article by Andrew Sesinyi]

[Text]

Mute concern hung over the National Assembly Tuesday as His Honour the Vice President and Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Dr. Q.K.J. Masire announced in sombre tones measures adopted to deal with drought and the outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

The reality of the situation seemed to sink harder into the parliamentarians as the Vice President disclosed that some 100 000 people, and about 400 000 cattle had been adversely affected by the two crippling disasters, making this period one of the worst in the history of Botswana.

Apart from the "yeah, yeah" encouraging interjections from the back-benchers and cabinet ministers the wide spread measures to deal with drought and the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, were greeted with mute concern.

According to the Vice President, food relief in the form of increased supplementary rations is being made available to children under five and to other vulnerable groups.

Special relief operations have been carried out for the benefit

of those in particular distress, the Vice President told the House.

Dr Masire said considerable commitment of resources has been necessary to bring food to such people, including purchase of transport and milled grain, and the deployment of additional personnel.

"In addition, a large quantity of seed has been purchased and will be available to farmers through Government, parastatal and cooperative outlets for the coming planting season."

There is also emergency work on boreholes and other water supply infrastructure being carried out to ensure continuity of human and livestock water facilities.

A cloud of concern seemed to thicken amidst nervous coughs and voice-clearings, as the Vice President told the House that the moment cattle purchases throughout the country had begun, just after the eradication of the previous outbreak of foot and mouth disease, another outbreak struck.

The second outbreak in two years was confirmed on August 1 this year.

"This led to the immediate abandonment of the planned movement of about 20 to 30 thousand slaughter cattle from these areas (areas which had been unable to market because

of the previous outbreak)," Dr Masire said.

These areas had suffered an economic drought since 1977 in terms of the loss income earning opportunities.

Dr Masire mentioned specifically that Ngamiland, Chobe and North-west Central District, West of the Central Ngwato Condon Fence now face the prospect of yet a further period of up to 12 months without access to the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC).

"Their situation is exacerbated by the nationwide drought, which has led to crop failure and deterioration of grazing conditions in many parts of the country," the Vice President said.

Given this unfortunate series of disasters, affecting some 100 000 people and about 400 000 head of cattle, a special Government intervention is called for to alleviate the consequent effects of these disasters on the local economy of these areas," he urged.

The full cost of the emergency relief programme for north-west Botswana is estimated to be about P1 million over the next 12 months, the Vice President further disclosed. Adding "this may be set against an income loss of as much as P3 million before cattle sales are resumed

"It is hoped that either through direct employment on the works programmes at a lower rate of pay plus ration where necessary, or through measures such as provision of free seed, the offer of borehole repair credit and diesel fuel subsidies or cancellation of school fees, most families in the severely hit areas will be able to benefit from this relief programme."

The Vice President also appealed to the House to help in fighting against the nation-wide drought and the foot and mouth disease outbreak.

Since 1977, Botswana's lifeline, agriculture, has been taunted by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, culminating in the present sweeping drought.

Past negotiations with the European Economic Community (EEC) had almost stalled Botswana's losses running into several thousand million Pula according to rough estimates, but the drought and the fresh outbreak halted progress.

Throughout the country Government's appeal, is beginning to flow in.

Two weeks back the Swedish Government announced a grant to Botswana of just over a million Pula to deal with the drought.

Criticized for Killing Herd

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 16 Aug 79 p 2

[Text]

Government was on Monday attacked in Parliament for what was called an "inhuman and brutal" step in killing 18 herd of cattle which strayed into the free stock zone near the Foot and Mouth Vaccine Laboratory in Gaborone recently.

Tabling an on-adjournment motion that the House requests government to give sympathetic consideration to granting some compensation to Messrs Pogisego Masimolole and Mokgachane Mosielele of Mogotshane whose 18 herd of cattle were impounded by the Veterinary Department on June 4, 1979 and shot dead thereafter," the Honourable Member of Parliament for Kweneng East, Mr E.M.K. Kgabo said that if the government was humanitarian enough it could not have taken this "inhuman and brutal step."

He stated that the step was taken despite requests from owners of the cattle that they be sent to the Botswana Meat Commission adding that they were even made to pay P5 each.

"Apparently some butchirs had been organised and the carcasses were sold to them at P30 each," pondered Mr Kgabo.

Mr Kgabo accused the government for bringing the foot and mouth disease to the South and yet it failed to immunise cattle in the area.

"You brought this disease near a resettled people and failed to safeguard their livestock and now you are rejoicing

here saying the law is taking its cause. This is a calamity," said Mr Kgabo.

He stated that the cattle were attracted by the good grazing on the Laboratory side of the fence adding that it is heartbreaking for a farmer to see his animal being shot.

Mr Kgabo further stated that recently five goats were also killed and sold to the same butchers.

In reply the Honourable Minister of Health, Mr E.S. Masisi, who is also acting Minister of Agriculture, said that in October 1978, the area surrounding the foot and mouth Production Unit in Broadhurst was in terms of the Diseases of Animals Act 1977, declared a stock free zone.

While every precaution is taken to ensure that no foot and mouth disease virus escapes from this laboratory, we cannot allow any cattle, sheep and goats or pigs near the laboratory in case they might become infected and cause outbreaks of the disease in the Gaborone area, he explained.

He stated that consequently the area around the laboratory has been gazetted a stock free zone.

Mr Masisi said that any cattle, sheep, pigs or goats which stray into the area around the laboratory have therefore to be slaughtered in case they contract foot and mouth disease.

Despite interruptions of "that is not enough," from the floor,

Mr Masisi stressed that a fence has been erected around the stock free zone. He explained that notice boards conveying the warning were placed along the fence and that patrol of the fence is being done while restrictions have been published in the Daily News.

Initially, he said, cattle owners were warned when their cattle entered the prohibited area and allowed to remove them but when the fence was deliberately cut and enforcement continued it was necessary to enforce the order and slaughter the cattle.

To date, the owners have been permitted to sell the carcasses and hides after the animals have been inspected, the Minister noted.

"I accept that the individual cattle owners suffer a loss but the loss to the country as a whole if there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the South would be immeasurably greater," said Mr Masisi.

He disclosed that the recent foot and mouth outbreak in the North will cost Botswana over P10 million in lost sales. That sum could be doubled if there was an outbreak in the South and in a full year it could cost the country up to P70 million.

"Whatever the inconvenience cattle owners in the Gaborone area must keep their cattle out of the stock free zone and it would be wrong to encourage them to be careless by paying compensation," cautioned Mr Masisi.

BRIEFS

MEASLES HITS MAHALAPYE--Three primary schools in Mahalapye were last week closed a week before the scheduled time due to an outbreak of measles in the village. The three schools are St James, St Frederick Maharero and St Patricks. The closure of the schools was done in consultation with the Ministry of Education and the Central District Council. And an official of the Ministry of Education yesterday confirmed the outbreak and the closure of the schools. Primary schools are scheduled to be closed this Friday. Health officials in the village were yesterday reported to be making all efforts to vaccinate children and investigate the situation in other schools. According to Dr S. D. Sheea of Mahalapye Hospital, about 80 pupils were affected by the disease. The Fredrick Maharero School, which is said to have been more affected than others, was closed last Thursday and only Standard Seven pupils were left because of their final examinations this week. Dr Sheea stated that about five people aged between 17 and 37 had to be treated in the hospital for this disease in mid July. She said that there was an outbreak of the disease in Kalamare, but only children under five years were affected. She could not, however, say whether the village is now free from the disease. The doctor is appealing to parents to bring their children for vaccination, whenever they realise that they are affected. She stated that some parents have a tendency of keeping their children at home saying that they are treating them with traditional medicine. She made it clear that taking children to hospital is not being against one's culture. She wondered why children under five years are affected since they are immunised against the disease after birth. [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 14 Aug 79 p 1]

RABID GOATS--Nine people were treated at Bobonong Health Post recently after being bitten by a rabid goat. This was the third rabid goat to be discovered in the area. Another goat and its kid were killed by the Veterinary Department on July 17 after it was confirmed that they were rabid. The nine victims are reported to be satisfactory and the brains of the three animals were sent to the Veterinary Headquarters in Gaborone for examination. [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 14 Aug 79 p 2]

HUNGARY

STATISTICS OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PUBLISHED

Budapest NEPEGESZSEGUGY in Hungarian No 3, Jun 79 p 191

[Excerpt] Notified Cases of Communicable Diseases in Hungary
January 1979*

Disease	January		Median 1973-77
	1979	1978	
Typhus abdominalis	2	1	3
Paratyphus	-	-	1
Salmonellosis	282	201	189
Dysentery	344	297	419
Dyspepsia coli	37	41	100
Hepatitis inf.	732	735	769
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Scarlatina	1,683	1,142	974
Morbilli	75	15	96
Rubeola	14,540	624	
Parotitis epid.	6,128	4,186	
Pertussis	5	3	3
Meningitis epid.	7	5	6
Meningitis serosa	32	27	20
Encephalitis inf.	17	8	7
Mononucleosis inf.	56	40	33
Keratoconj. epid.	5	1	4
Malaria	1**	1**	-
Typhus exanth.	-	-	-
Staphylococcosis	25	18	18
Tetanus	3	1	3
Anthrax	-	-	-
Brucellosis	1	3	5
Leptospirosis	1	3	1
Tularemia	3	2	-
Ornithosis	-	-	1
Q-fever	-	-	-
Lyssa	-	-	-
Taeniasis	1	1	-
Trichinellosis	-	-	-
Injury suspected of rabies inf.	189	186	128

* Preliminary partly corrected figures.

**Imported cases

Of the droplet infections, the number of rubella cases has increased significantly.

Compared to the previous month, effectively the number of mumps and morbilli-like cases has not changed however, scarlatina has decreased significantly.

Notified Cases of Communicable Diseases in Hungary
February 1979*

Disease	February			January - February 28		
	1979	1978	Median 1973-77	1979	1978	Median 1973-77
Typhus abdominalis	3	-	3	5	1	5
Paratyphus	-	-	-	-	-	2
Salmonellosis	192	127	176	474	328	319
Dysentery	354	253	433	698	550	818
Dyspepsia coli	31	78	74	68	119	164
Hepatitis inf.	566	576	604	1,298	1,311	1,349
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	1	-	-	1	-
Scarlatina	1,258	1,006	1,011	2,941	2,418	1,822
Morbilli	71	14	109	146	29	205
Rubeola	25,835	686		40,375	1,310	
Parotitis epid.	6,134	3,694		12,262	7,880	
Pertussis	2	2	3	7	5	6
Meningitis epid.	9	6	6	16	11	13
Meningitis serosa	41	18	24	73	45	49
Encephalitis inf.	15	5	7	32	13	15
Mononucleosis inf.	41	44	36	97	84	75
Keratoconj. epid.	7	1	3	12	2	6
Malaria	1**	-	-	2**	1**	-
Typhus exanth.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staphylococcosis	14	27	21	39	45	46
Tetanus	-	2	3	3	3	6
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brucellosis	1	2	10	2	5	15
Leptospirosis	1	-	3	2	3	3
Tularemia	1	-	-	4	2	1
Ornithosis	-	1	-	-	1	1
Q-fever	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lyssa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taeniasis	6	4	5	7	5	11
Trichinellosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Injury suspected of rabies inf.	161	221	152	350	407	296

* Preliminary partly corrected figures. **Imported cases

In February, the significant increase in rubeola cases and considerable decrease in scarlet fever cases is noteworthy. In January and February of 1979 the number of mumps cases was about 2 1/2 times more than in 1974. The number of infectious diseases involving the nervous system was more than twice that reported the previous year. This is presumably associated with more stringent reporting and the high incidence of mumps in 1979.

HUNGARY

UNIDENTIFIED EPIDEMIC SPREADING

Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 9 Sep 79 p 13 WA

[Text] Illness accompanied by diarrhoea has been reported from more communities in Veszprem County. Patients complaining of symptoms similar to those noted in Tapolcz have consulted their physicians in Devecser, Uzsabanya and Veszprem. By Saturday morning the number of stricken had amounted to 546 persons. Regional health authorities have taken steps necessary to determine the causes of the disease, to prevent or retard its spread and to ensure medical treatment or hospitalization of the victims.

CSO: 5400

INDIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK--New Delhi, 21 Aug. (AFP)--Over 30 people died of a cholera epidemic in the Uttar Pradesh town of Gonda during the past week, reports reaching here said. There have been over 200 cases of the disease in Gonda and surrounding areas. The reports said the people in the affected areas had become panicky, rushing to the government-run health centres to get themselves inoculated. [Hong Kong AFP in English 1030 GMT 21 Aug 79 BK]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SUMATRA DEATHS—Palembang, 19 Aug (ANTARA)—A cholera-like disease locally known as "Muntaber" has killed 19 people in South Sumatra during the last 2 months, head of the South Sumatra Health Service H. Mustafa Abubakar revealed Thursday. Abubakar said 13 of the casualties were from the Ogan-Komerang Ilir Regency and from Palembang, the municipal town. He said 200 patients suffering from the disease had been treated at hospitals in Palembang, all recovering save one. He blamed the dry season for the emergence of the disease. The dry season, he said, had helped the disease to flourish especially in areas where water supply depended on rivers. [Jakarta ANTARA in English 0709 GMT 20 Aug 79 BK]

CHOLERA IN SOUTH KALIMANTAN—Jakarta, 27 Aug (AFP)—The waters of the Barito River in South Kalimantan have been officially declared infested with cholera germs, ANTARA News Agency reported today. The provincial health service has issued a statement to this effect coupled with a warning to people living along the river, and particularly in the provincial capital Banjarmasin, to observe the necessary health precautions in using water from the river. Contamination of the river by cholera germs has been positively proved by laboratory tests, the statement added. So far, 18 people were known to have died from a cholera-type disease, called "Muntaber" to denote excessive vomiting and discharge of the bowels, in this province until August 20. In an adjacent province, Central Kalimantan, 84 people were reported to have died from the disease in the past 2 months alone. Special health teams have been put into action in the two provinces to help combat the disease and provide speedy aid to victims. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT 27 Aug 79 BK]

CSO: 5400

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

IMMUNIZATIONS TO EGYPT—Israel recently sent 15,000 immunizations against the African rift fever, which is deadly both to animals and humans, to Egypt. The drug is produced in South Africa and Egypt had to get it from Israel since Egypt could not purchase the drug from South Africa for political reasons. Israel has immunized the animals on the Egyptian border for some time now but Egypt, although this disease is endemic, could not do so until now due to its refusal to receive the immunizations carrying a South African identification label. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 79 p 8 TA]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

KOREAN HEMORRHAGIC FEVER--Tokyo, Sept 6 KYODO--The Health and Welfare Ministry has decided to take steps to prevent general outbreak of Korean hemorrhage fever, now prevalent among medical researchers at colleges and institutes throughout Japan, officials said Thursday. The decision came after Korea University in Seoul recently confirmed in examinations on blood sera of suspected KHF cases picked from medical, pharmacological and agricultural researchers that 67 of them are afflicted. The officials said that the ministry will ask the Education Ministry's panel of experts on epidemic hemorrhage fever for the results of their researches. The panel was formed after the KHF was found prevailing among medical doctors at Tohoku University, Niigata University and some other Japanese colleges last November. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0156 GMT 6 Sep 79 OW]

CSO: 5400

JORDAN

BRIEFS

CHOLERA CASES--A responsible source at the Health Ministry has declared that 14 cholera cases have appeared in Jordan up to this evening. Twelve patients were admitted to the al-Hussayn Hospital in al-Salt, one of whom was cured. The other two patients were admitted to the al-Bashir Hospital in Amman. The source added that all of the patients are in good condition. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Sep 79 JN]

CSO: 5400

ORGANIZATIONAL DIFFICULTIES MAR ANTITETANUS CAMPAIGN

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 4 Sep 79 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] The antitetanus vaccination program began yesterday in the area of Greater Maputo. In a first phase, the campaign will include industrial units in Maputo, Matola and Machava, in order that all workers be vaccinated against this mortal disease. The vaccination campaign in the Greater Maputo area will end on 12 September and will then be extended to the entire province of Maputo.

The vaccination team visited yesterday approximately 10 factories where it vaccinated nearly 2,000 workers.

"We have encountered many problems, especially in the organization of the workers. We have often entered a factory only to wait long periods of time until the workers become organized. Moreover, it happened that many times we had to wait for office personnel after spending the time waiting for the workers. This has affected our work," the team leader from the City Health Department said.

According to the program initially established for the vaccination campaign, the workers were supposed to meet in the factory with the greatest number of workers. However, this schedule was not adhered to--at least yesterday--and this affected the team's operations, when it is estimated that this team can vaccinate about 2,000 persons per hour. "Had there been a modicum of organization within the factories, we could have reached, or even gone beyond, this goal," the team leader said.

Following the first phase of the vaccination campaign, the Ministry of Health team will vaccinate school children in the Maputo, Matola and Machava districts. It is hoped that the campaign will be conducted with more efficiency in this sector.

CSO: 5400

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN--In coordination with the departmental coordination committees and the Sandinist defense committees in the departments of Managua, Granada and Leon, the Health Ministry will begin the national campaign against polio on Sunday. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 29 Aug 79 PA]

CSO: 5400

NUMBER OF SUSPECTED ENCEPHALITIS CASES RISE

Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Aug 79 p 8

[Text]

Suspected encephalitis cases have been reported in increasing numbers these days, putting health authorities on the alert.

A total of 58 people throughout the country have been showing symptoms similar to encephalitis during this season and five of them have already died with the cause of their deaths not determined as yet.

Health officials said that the high rate of encephalitis outbreaks might be caused by unclean circumstance following the assault of two typhoons — Iriving and Judy.

According to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, suspected encephalitis patients have been reported chiefly in southern provinces, hard hit by the recent rainshowers caused by the typhoons.

Among the total 58 cases reported as suspected encephali-

tis patients to the Health and Social Affairs Ministry, Chollanamdo province recorded the largest number with 51 cases, followed by Pusan, Chollapukto, and Cheju with two cases each, and Kyungsang-pukto with one.

The five dead are Kim Chinsong, 4, of Sanjong-dong, Mokpo city; Cho Chin-yong, 5, of Chindo-myon, Chindo-gun; Lee Sung-jin, four-month-old boy from Aphae-myon, Sinan-gun; Miss Lee Sin-suk, 14, of Aradong, Cheju city; and Chang Shang-gi, 7, of Amilae-myon, Sinan-gun.

The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs officially announced that a total of 33 people were still receiving medical examination at the National Institute of Health after their sera and discharges were collected.

CSO: 5400

SPAIN

BRIEFS

CHOLERA CASES CONFIRMED--The Ministry of Health and Social Security has just issued a note giving official confirmation of the existence of cases of cholera in Spain. Two Moroccans were admitted to a hospital in Melilla with the disease at the end of July. Both recovered. As a result of these cases security precautions were stepped up, and four cases then came to light in Barcelona and seven cases in Malaga. These have all been isolated cases and there is no epidemic. No secondary cases have been reported. [Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 120G GMT 24 Aug 79 LD]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER--Due to the African swine fever epidemic which is affecting our country as well, approximately 70 hogs acquired by the SOCOMIM [expansion unknown] died within the space of a few days; only 4 could be saved. The hogs were housed in one of the warehouses of this commercial establishment. According to information issued by the SOCOMIM management, a veterinarian was alerted as soon as they noticed that the hogs were dying every day. The veterinarian reported that nothing could be done, since the epidemic was already at an advanced stage, and advised that the hogs should be housed in a cool spot with a cement floor and should have access to drinking water. The hogs had been purchased in the interior of the country. More hogs will be purchased at a later date because there are some difficulties in housing them at present. [Excerpt] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 1 Sep 79 p 2]

CSO: 5400

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

SWINE FEVER CONTROL CAMPAIGN--Caracas, 15 Aug--The government has launched a campaign to prevent the spread of African swine fever to Venezuela. The announcement was made by Cesar Ramos, general director of cattle development of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry (MAC). Ramos noted that Resolution 251 must be complied with in order to prevent the disease from spreading to Venezuela. Among other provisions, the resolution bans the use of food scraps, regardless of origin, to feed swine. The authorities will confiscate and burn any pork product or derivative carried by travelers in their luggage and will maintain constant vigilance at the borders, ports and airports to keep these products from being brought in from countries where the disease already exists. In addition, the personnel of the MAC's Animal Sanitation Directorate will monitor compliance with disease control measures at the hog farms. [Caracas VENPRES in Spanish 1745 GMT 16 Aug 79 PA]

CSO: 5400

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM IRICO-CSA MEETING

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 29 Aug 79 p 1

[Text]

The Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. K.S. Bingana, accompanied by Mrs. B.E.A. Tafa and Mr. P.A. Thomas, arrived in Gaborone on Sunday August 26, 1979. They had been representing Botswana at the 9th Session of the Governing Council of the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern African (IRICO-CAS) which was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from August 20 to 24, 1979.

The meeting, which was also attended by delegations from Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia provided an opportunity for member Governments of IRICO-CAS to appraise the technical, financial and administrative status of the organisation during the past year and to make decisions concerning its future progress.

The main function of the organisation is the control of Red Locusts in the primary outbreak areas which are situated in Zambia and Tanzania.

Efficient control of locusts in these areas prevents the outbreak of swarms which are able to breed in 'secondary out-

break', or 'swarm retention areas'. This allows locusts to disperse over a very wide area and possibly initiate a plague such as the one which effected the whole of Eastern and Southern Africa during the 1930's and 1940's.

Locusts are only able to breed in large numbers in areas of extensive grasslands, usually with clay soils, which are subjected to periodic flooding. Several such areas exist in Ngamiland and were last surveyed in 1977 when very low-density residents populations of Red Locust were found.

These places are known to have acted as secondary outbreak areas during the last locust plague and it is important that they be watched carefully.

The Ministry of Agriculture will be conducting a survey of various parts of Ngamiland and Chobe District during October in order to assess the present situation.

At the Governing Council Meeting, Botswana was elected as Chairman of the Executive Committee of IRICO-CSA, the next meeting of which will be held in Gaborone in March 1980.

CSO: 5400

THAILAND

BRIEFS

SUGAR CANE INFESTATION--More than 73,000 rai of sugar-cane plantations have been damaged by a swarm of insects which have ravaged several crop fields in the provinces of Chon Buri, Chachoengsao and Rayong, agriculture officials reported. Crop damage is estimated at 40 million baht. The insect, called sugar-cane white fly, technically known as *aleurobus baredenis maskell*, was reported to have plagued these three provinces since the beginning of this month. It is the first reported appearance of this type of insect in Thailand. According to an official survey, the hardest hit areas were the districts of Phan Thong, Nong Yai, Ban Bung in Chon Buri, Plaeng Yao District in Chachoengsao and Pluak Daeng sub-district in Rayong. The total area destroyed was officially put at 73,470 rai. [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Aug 79 p 3 BK]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

TSETSE FLY CAMPAIGN—Government officials in Mumbwa are drawing up plans to eradicate tsetse fly in an area where 500 people have been resettled. District secretary, Mr Charles Simbotwe, said the exercise would pave the way for the movement of livestock left behind at an old settlement. Chief Kabulwebulwe asked the Government to resettle his people three years ago because the area in which they were living was not fertile. The Government cut off a piece of land from Kafue National Park for the resettlement scheme. Because of the presence of tsetse fly in the new resettlement area the people left behind their animals. Chief Kabulwebulwe paid tribute to the Party and its Government for their good response to the people's needs. The chief said his people had now become self-sufficient in almost every agricultural produce. "The land here is very fertile. This year I produced 100 bags of maize. I intend to increase production next year when I am settled," he said. [Text] [Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 2 Sep 79 p 3]

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